

SPORTS

MEN'S BASEBALL

Voyageurs open MCAC North schedule 0-4

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Rainy River Community College baseball team opened its Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division schedule last weekend by dropping a pair of doubleheaders.

The Voyageurs headed to Brainerd on Saturday to play a twin bill against Vermilion.

Game one went eight innings when RRCC lost to Vermilion, 7-6.

The Voyageurs used four pitchers, starting with Stephen Rivera, who went 4 1/3 innings, giving up five runs, two earned, on two hits with six walks and a hit batter while striking out three.

Jose Pedraza then pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings, allowing a hit and a walk with two strikeouts.

Talon Kunkel gave up an earned run in the seventh inning on two hits with a walk and a hit batter.

Tanner Helms worked two-thirds of an inning in the eighth when he took the loss giving up the deciding earned run on a hit with three walks.

RRCC tallied nine hits. Kunkel picked up a pair of doubles with an RBI. Sean Deviney also doubled. Gino Strebing had a pair of singles with 3 RBI and a run scored, while Drew Birss added two singles with an RBI.

VERMILION 5, RRCC 4

In game two, the Voyageurs trailed by four runs after three innings before they waged a comeback, but lost by a run to Vermilion, 5-4.

RRCC starting pitcher Kris Barber recorded the loss after giving up all five runs, two earned, on five hits with three walks while striking out two in four innings of work. Pedraza pitched the

final two scoreless innings, giving up a hit and two walks with two strikeouts.

The Voyageurs outthit Vermilion, 13-6, with Colten Boudreau coming up with a double and three singles along with two runs scored. Makana Canda had three singles and a run scored, while Strebing added a double and a single with an RBI.

ITASCA 12, RRCC 2

After rainy weather made Grand Rapids too soggy to play at Sunday, the Voyageurs headed to Littlefork to face Itasca in a doubleheader.

Game one stayed close for the first three innings before Itasca trounced RRCC, 12-2, in five innings.

The Voyageurs took a 2-1 lead in the top of the fourth when Helms scored after reaching base on a mishandled pop fly in the infield. The Vikings then dominated the rest of the way by scoring four runs in the bottom of the fourth and seven more in the fifth to end the game via the 10-run rule.

Robert Parrish III started the game for RRCC and recorded the pitching loss working 3 2/3 innings, giving up five runs, two earned, on two hits with seven walks while striking out four.

Pedraza relieved Parrish and was charged for four earned runs in a third of an inning, allowing a hit and two walks with a hit batter.

Tyler Boldt and Jake Schulte then each pitched a third of an inning for the Voyageurs in the fifth with Boldt being charged for the final three runs.

RRCC tallied only three hits. Victor Rodriguez, who scored the Voyageurs' first run in the third inning on a sacrifice fly by Strebing, singled, while Birss and Canda also singled.

The five-inning game



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

At left, the Voyageurs' Victor Rodriguez crosses home plate to score in the first game of Sunday's doubleheader against Itasca in Littlefork.

was error-prone with Itasca committing two errors and RRCC having three more.

ITASCA 15, RRCC 0

In game two, Itasca shut out the Voyageurs, 15-0.

Joseph Hudson started on the mound for RRCC and recorded the loss in four innings of work, allowing nine runs, seven earned, on five hits – three of which were homeruns – and three walks with a hit batter while striking out four.

Schulte then pitched 1 1/3 innings, giving up six earned runs on five hits with two walks and two hit batters. Rodriguez pitched the final two-thirds of an inning,

hitting a batter and striking out two.

The Voyageurs tallied six hits from six different batters, while Itasca had 10 hits.

“Overall, we are starting to hit the ball much better, especially with two strikes,” said RRCC head coach Josh Koenig. “However, we need to get some timely hitting with runners in scoring position as we are leaving too many runners left of base. Our defense is starting to play much more consistently, but still needs to focus better with two outs.

“Our biggest area of concern right now is in our

pitching. Our pitchers are giving too many free passes with walks and (batters being) hit by (a) pitch and teams are taking advantage of these opportunities. They need to throw strikes and get our opponent to put the ball into play and let the defense do the work.”

After losing all four games in last weekend's league doubleheaders, the Voyageurs' season record dropped to 8-18 overall and 0-4 in the MCAC North going into Tuesday's twin bill against Northland at Bemidji State University.

RRCC is scheduled to host Hibbing in another conference doubleheader today at 2 p.m. at Scheela Field.

Saturday's game 1
Vermilion 7, Rainy River 6
Rainy River 0-1-3 1-0-0 1-0 - 69 1
Vermilion 0-3-0 0-2-0 1-1 - 7 62

Saturday's game 2
Vermilion 5, Rainy River 4
Rainy River 1-0-0 0-1-0 2 - 4 13 1
Vermilion 1-0-4 0-0-0 X-5 6 0

Sunday's game 1
Itasca 12, Rainy River 2
Rainy River 0-0-1 1-0 - 2 3 3
Itasca 1-0-0 4-7 - 12 52

Sunday's game 2
Itasca 14, Rainy River 0
Rainy River 0-0-0 0-0-0 0 - 0 6 2
Itasca 0-0-3 6-3-3 x-15 100

TRACK

► continued from B1

be our biggest competition at True Team, Park Rapids. Everyone pulled together and in the end it all worked out.”

Broncos senior Amy Auran placed third in the 3200 run (13:37.72) and also came in fifth in the 300 hurdles (54.46) and seventh in the 100 hurdles (19.62).

Other individuals scoring points for the Falls included freshman Emily Saari, who placed fifth in the 100 hurdles (19.55) and sixth in the pole vault (7-0). Black added a fifth-place finish in the 3200 run (13:50.84). Additional eighth-place finishes came from Dahle in the 100 dash (14.34) and Emma Gilbert in the 200 dash (29.21).

Fentem, Owen, Dahle and Butler placed sixth in the 4X100 relay (1:00.84).

FHS BOYS 1ST

In the boys competition, the Broncos won with the top score of 110.5, followed by the host school, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley (104.5),

Pequot Lakes (88.5), Pine River-Backus (75) and Northome/Kelliher/Blackduck (70) in the top five out of 10 teams scoring points.

Of the Falls' four top individual finishes, sophomore Ethan Phung had two of them, winning the high jump (6-0) and triple jump (38-6). Phung also placed runner-up in the long jump (18-9.5).

Broncos junior Austin Rupert won the discus (126-8) and placed third in the shot put (41-2), while junior Gary Harala came in fourth in the shot put at 39-7.

“(Friday's) meet was an excellent preview of what we are going to see at the True Team meet in Warren,” Harala said. “Our team performed very well and continues to improve every meet. Personal records were broken and we ended up with a victory. It was a good day.”

The Falls also got a first-place finish from senior Jakob Ettestad, who won the pole vault (10-6). Sophomore Wyatt Helgeson cleared 8-6 when he tied for third in the

pole vault and had another third-place finish in the high jump (5-6).

Broncos junior Cole Tatsak placed second in the 300 hurdles (45.27) and also finished fourth in the triple jump (35-8.5).

The Falls had two distance runners score points in the 3200 run with eighth-grader John Cowman placing second in 11:52.78 and freshman Chase Howdahl ending up seventh in 12:27.4. Cowman added an eighth-place finish in the 1600 run.

“John Cowman continues to improve with every race,” said Broncos head coach Paul Hjelle. “He is very talented for just an eighth-grader and has a very bright future ahead of him.”

Ettestad, Phung, Tatsak and freshman Nick Hedtke placed third in the 4X100 relay (48.08).

“The meet (Friday) was very fun and well run... and a lot of great times were set,” Hedtke said.

Hedtke, Tatsak and seniors Jacob Piekarski and Paul Skoglund placed fourth

in the 4X400 relay (3:56.9).

Helgeson, Piekarski, Skoglund and Ettestad finished sixth in the 4X200 relay (1:42.78).

Ettestad added an eighth-place finish in the 200 dash (25.37), while Skoglund came in eighth in the 100 hurdles (19.43).

The Old River Meet that the Broncos were scheduled to compete in Tuesday in Grand Rapids has been rescheduled for Thursday.

May Day Invite
GIRLS
Team scores: International Falls 154, Bagley/Fosston 133.5, Park Rapids Area 119, Pequot Lakes 85.5, Northome/Kelliher/Blackduck 50, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley 44, Wadena-Deer Creek 37, Nevis 28, Deer River/Northland 23, Pine River-Backus 20, TrekNorth 5.

BOYS
Team scores: International Falls 110.5, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley 104.5, Pequot Lakes 88.5, Pine River-Backus 75, Northome/Kelliher/Blackduck 70, Bagley/Fosston 63, Wadena-Deer Creek 59, Park Rapids Area 55.5, Deer River/Northland 54, Nevis 13.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Broncos' Claire Herzig takes off from the starting blocks while sprinting the 200-meter dash in Friday's May Day Invite at Walker. Herzig finished fourth in 28.61 seconds.

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